

January 30, 2005

Freedom

War

Command - Afghanistan



***Coalition Soldiers
provide assistance
to orphans in Kabul***
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Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Celebrating Equality

Staff Sgt. Eunice Scott (left) and Spc. Cherita Guynes, both of "Graceful Praise," perform during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. celebration at Bagram Airfield Jan. 19. The celebration highlighted the life of King and what he did to make the idea "and justice for all" a reality.

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Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Webb, Task Force Victory, puts a new pair of socks on a boy at the Allaudin Orphanage before fitting him for a new pair of shoes Jan. 5. Soldiers of Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan visit the children weekly to deliver assistance and plan to begin teaching them life skills in the near future.

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Freedom Watch

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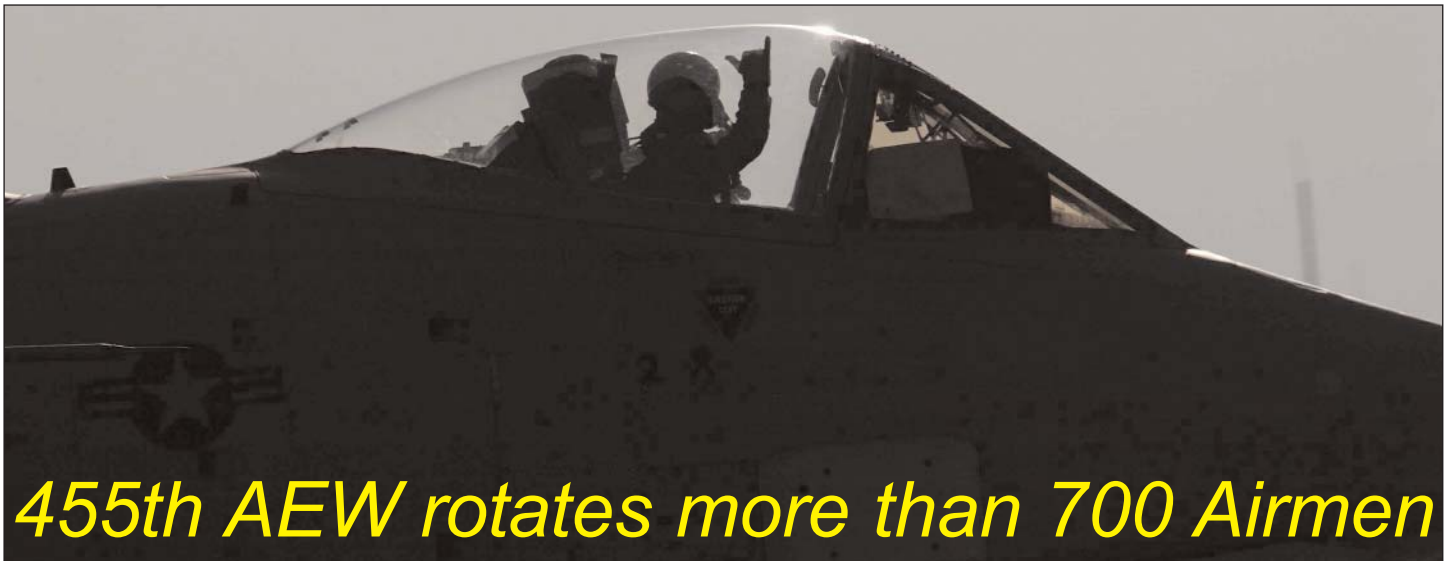
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455th AEW rotates more than 700 Airmen

Story and photos by
Air Force Capt. Catie Hague
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Air Expeditionary Force rotations 1 and 2 “turns on final,” as approximately 700 Airmen assigned to AEF rotations 3 and 4 are slated to hit the ground on Bagram Airfield within the next three weeks.

This new team of Airmen is tasked with carrying on the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing’s mission for 120 days — January through May.

“Our Airmen are coming from all over,” said Air Force Col. Derrick Hoxie, 455th AEW deputy commander. “They’ve got various specialties, which they must now transfer to the battle rhythm of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“The goal for AEF 3/4 is a successful deployment — both personal and operational,” he said. “As for the mission, the AEW will continue to provide aerial support and protection for the Coalition effort on the ground, specifically in support of the upcoming regional and provincial elections in the spring.”

The 455th Expeditionary Operations Group, commanded by Air Force Col. Warren Henderson, will take on the security role through its implementation of close air support.

“We have 254 people coming in with the A-10s,” said Henderson. “In order to ensure there’s continuing close air support available throughout the AEF swap out, the current operations team will remain in place until the new aviation package has arrived.”

The operations group, made up of flyers and maintainers, is deploying as a unit from Pope Air Force Base, N.C.

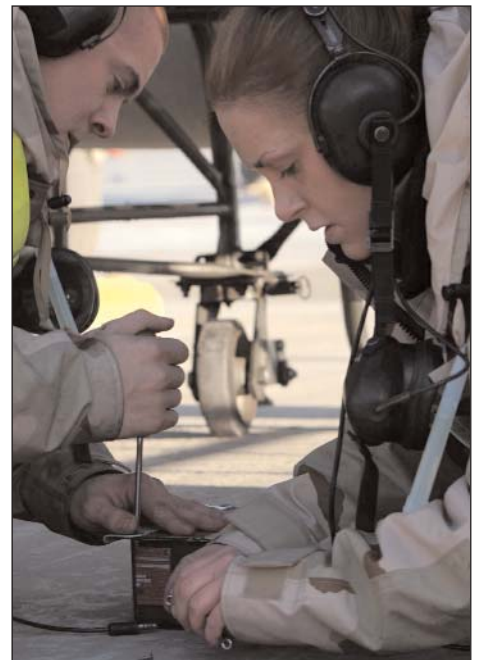
“Under the AEW, we’ll be divided into two groups — operations and maintenance — where we’ll work closely to accomplish the day-to-day flying mission,” he said. “Our A-10s will provide close air support to the Army and other government agencies involved with inspections, convoys, (distinguished visitor) escorts, border crossings and policing efforts.”

While the Number 1 job of the 455th is to provide “first-rate, on-time support” to the troops on the ground, the focus of AEF 3 and 4 at Bagram will be to leave the Army-run airfield in better condition than it is today.

“We need to get out of the temporary mindset and focus on sustainment,” said Air Force Col. Rita Meyer, 455th Expeditionary Mission Support Group commander.

From a support standpoint, Meyer has four main goals for the next 120 days — keep people and resources mission-focused, implement baseline Air Force quality of life standards, uphold Air Force standards and culture, and plan for future AEF rotations.

“We’ve got a number of projects in the works,” added Meyer. “Like the continuation of airfield



Above: Air Force Airmen 1st Class Matthew Paradise (left) and Tabitha Blake, both electro-environmental specialists from the 455th Expeditionary Maintenance Group, work to replace a generator control unit for an A-10 preparing to launch Jan. 16.

Top: An A-10 Thunderbolt II pilot waves as he taxis for takeoff during redeployment.



An Airman ground guides a HMMWV off a C-17 Globemaster III on Bagram Airfield during the rotation of AEF troops.

improvements, the streamlining of air cargo ops, and the rebuilding of shower and latrine facilities. Limited numbers of living huts are another issue being worked. And there will be some personnel and work-center moves in order to round out the site plan.”

Bottom line — be prepared for change, said Hoxie. And to the troops he said, “Pull out your ‘tools’ ... you’re gonna use ‘em.”

Gun doctor

NCO shares weapons skills with Kandahar Airfield Soldiers

Story by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A self-proclaimed “gun doctor,” Master Sgt. Eileen Konopacki revels in the smell of weapons lubricant and misses the feeling of calluses on her hands.

As the Kandahar Airfield Base Operations noncommissioned officer in charge, Konopacki is responsible for housing on Kandahar and maintains oversight of all civilian-contracted projects, the local national labor force, and all truck traffic in and out of Kandahar.

But maintaining and repairing weapons is the 34-year-olds’ real specialty. It’s in her blood.

Konopacki is a mechanical maintenance technician for the 33rd Area Support Group, Illinois National Guard. Back in Chicago, Konopacki works as a Department of Defense weapons technician for the Illinois National Guard.

“Out here, I don’t get to do much of what I do back home,” said Konopacki.

But in between checking on work orders and other managerial tasks that



Photos by Staff Sgt. Monica R. Garreau

Master Sgt. Eileen Konopacki, Kandahar Airfield Base Operations NCO in charge, reassembles the bolt of a .50 caliber machine gun.

keep the airfield operational, she finds time to share her expertise with the Soldiers around her.

“Master Sgt. K found us pulling out

our (50-caliber machine gun) for a mission one day, and offered to teach us a class,” said Sgt. Charles D. Duncan, range and marksmanship NCO for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Combined Task Force Bronco. “She taught us how to do a more thorough (pre-combat inspection) and how to identify certain problems, which helps us to expedite maintenance and repair.”

But Konopacki doesn’t think she does anything out of the ordinary.

“This is what I do at home,” she said. “Sharing it just lets me add something to the fight.”

Although it’s not her current role to serve as an adviser to the Soldiers, Konopacki feels whatever she can add is a combat multiplier for those operating the weapons.

“I am glad I have that background though, because when I see someone using the wrong lubricant or not doing the right thing, I know enough to correct them,” she said.

Konopacki’s background originates in small arms. But through career progression, she has mastered such weapons as the MK-19 grenade launcher and the 50-cal. Both are used extensively throughout Afghanistan.

With her knowledge, Konopacki has been able to better prepare deploying Soldiers.

“Last year I spent a lot of time teaching different units about the systems,” she said. “I’ve gotten feedback, and that feedback has not only taught me things, but helped me teach others.”

Unfortunately, Konopacki isn’t always able to get that hands-on time that she likes.

“I love the workouts I get throwing around MK-19s and 50-cals,” she said. “I’ve lost all my calluses, and it bothers me.”

But that doesn’t keep Konopacki from recognizing the importance of her role in Afghanistan.

“This is an extremely important job to Kandahar,” she said of her job in base operations. “And when I can, I share my knowledge (of the weapons) to hopefully have an immediate combat impact.”



Konopacki (left) guides Sgt. Charles D. Duncan, HHC, CTF Bronco, through preventive maintenance checks and services on a .50 caliber machine gun.

MPs train, observe Herat police in action

Tactical advisory team mentors ANP, shares valuable lessons learned

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM, Afghanistan — Police Tactical Advisory Teams have the enormous task of training and equipping police throughout Afghanistan. One group in Herat province has found success teaching their lessons outside the classroom.

The military police officers working from the Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team frequently accompany Afghan National Police as they conduct missions.

While it is not uncommon to see Coalition and local police patrolling together to maintain security, it's the Herat PTAT's emphasis on training and advising that is making their presence more beneficial in the long run, said Sgt. Reuben Roque, Herat PRT PTAT leader.

Now in their fourth month of working in Herat, the PTAT's strong relationship with the local police department is a result of the strong training by previous teams and the ANP's desire to be better, said Roque.

"Our ability to expand our training on to the streets is the result of a good foundation with the local community," he said.

So far, the PTAT has been on day and night patrols, set up checkpoints, and has even been along on house raids.

While along on missions, the team walks a fine line, though.

"We are not there to do it for them. We want to be there to advise them while they apply the knowledge they have learned in the classroom," said Spc. Christopher Greer, Herat PRT PTAT.



Spc. Christopher Greer, Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team Police Tactical Advisory Team, meets with Afghan National Police in Herat city. The PTAT strives to regularly meet with the policemen to maintain positive channels of communication for future training.

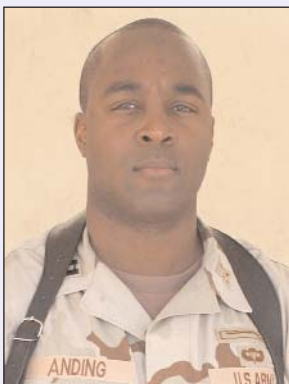
For each situation encountered while working with the police department, they have created and taught classes so the other officers can learn through them. Being present while the Afghans use what they are taught will serve to reinforce their classroom training, he said.

"In the classroom, it is difficult to go through each scenario they will encounter," said Greer. "Giving pointers after they have just done it makes it easier to understand."

See *PTAT*, Page 14

Enduring Voices

What have you done here that you couldn't have done anywhere else?



Capt. Patrick Anding
CJTF-76, CJ4

"I have been able to see the life and culture of a different country that I was not exposed to before."



Marine Lance Cpl. Keith Thomas
HMH-462

"I have been able to help the people of a country who need our assistance."



Staff Sgt. Herald Palmer
210th Eng. Det.

"I have been able to watch democracy develop within a third world country."



Spc. Kenneth Hennig
58th MP Co.

"I have been able to help a third world country that has been affected by war for so long."

Support teams maintain forward equipment

Story and photo by Spc. Dijon Rolle
17th Public Affairs Detachment

FORWARD OPERATING BASE ANACONDA, Afghanistan — Combat operations can take a heavy toll on military equipment, especially for Coalition forces serving at remote forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan.

Ensuring millions of dollars worth of military equipment remains mission-capable is a large task, but it's one the Soldiers from the Company B, 325th Forward Support Battalion, maintenance support team are ready to handle.

The 11-person team from Kandahar Airfield travels to forward operating bases throughout the country, repairing broken equipment for Coalition forces.

The team is comprised of Soldiers from the specialized maintenance sections within the company. Together, the group is capable of fixing a wide array of weapons, vehicles and electronics. Their work keeps those deployed to remote locations combat-ready.

"The terrain and conditions here can be rough on vehicles and equipment, requiring constant maintenance," said 1st Lt. Ron Brosius, Co. B, 325th FSB, MST team leader.

For the units that depend on the MST, time is of the essence.

"I think it's more convenient," said Spc. Jose Garcia, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment. "With (the MST) here, we don't have to send stuff out to

Tarin Kowt or Kandahar and wait for it to come back."

Garcia learned first-hand just how vital the MST is when his night-vision goggles required repair.

"It was good they were here, because I had guard duty the day they broke. The team fixed them the same day," he said.

FOB mechanics and support personnel are receiving an important helping hand from the MST, and even more job experience.

"(The MST) being here is good, because a lot of jobs can be done faster," said Spc. Roy Taveras, Company C, 65th Engineer Battalion, mechanic. "It's been a great experience for me. I've learned a lot myself. Everything is hands-on, and even if I can't help, I can at least watch and get an idea of what's going on."

While the mechanics rely on the MST, the MST is also dependent on the mechanics. They expect the mechanics at the FOBs to provide them with an accurate repair assessment, before the team



Spc. Roy Taveras (left), Co. C, 65th Eng. Bn., mechanic and Sgt. Rodney Mozard, Co. B, 325th FSB, maintenance support team mechanic, replace a power steering pump on a vehicle at FOB Anaconda.

hits the ground. This enables the group to gather all the tools and parts they'll need to make repairs once they reach the FOB.

The team rotates to the different FOBs for anywhere from one week to one month, depending on mission needs. They return to Kandahar Airfield after completing each rotation for resupply.

"I love what I do," said Sgt. Rodney Mozard, Co. B, 325th FSB, MST mechanic. "We do the job right, and that keeps these guys operational. That's what we're here for."

AAFES SERVICES HOURS OF OPERATION

Bagram Airfield

PX	Massage
0230-1630	0400-1800
Shoppette	Alterations
0230-1630	0430-1430
Burger King	Embroidery Shop
0430-1730	0430-1430
Food Court	Gift Shops
0600-1630	0430-1430
Coffee Shop	Sports Apparel
24 hours	0430-1430
Barber Shop	Day Spa
0430-1530	0400-1600

Kandahar Airfield

PX	Day Spa
0500-1700	0500-1700
Burger King	Alterations
0430-1730	0500-1700
Coffee Shop	Embroidery Shop
24hrs	0500-1700
Pizza Hut	Gift Shops
0600-1800	0500-1700
Subway	Sports Apparel
0600-1430	0500-1700
Main Barber Shop	Black Ops Store
0500-1700	0500-1700
Lagoon Barber Shop	Leather Shop
0300-1700	0500-1700

TF Phoenix

PX
0430-1630
Barber Shop
0330-1530
Alterations
0330-1630
Coffee Shop
24 hours

Kabul

PX
0430-1630
Barber Shop
0330-1530
Coffee Shop
24 hours

** All times in Zulu/GMT*

Marines share martial arts, train ASF in self-defense

Story and photo by
Marine Cpl. Rich Mattingly
3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment

KONAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan — “Take a stance!” yelled Marine 2nd Lt. Gary Bechtold to his pupils, a group of Afghan Security Force soldiers. They quickly responded, springing into the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program’s “basic warrior’s stance” next to the perimeter of their base camp here.

Bechtold and other Marines and Sailors of “America’s Battalion,” 3rd Battalion, 3rd Marine Regiment, have been training side-by-side with the ASF near the Pakistan border since the battalion arrived.

In the northern province of Konar, Co. I, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, has built up a small forward operating base in the heart of the Hindu Kush mountain range. The Marines’ efforts here have focused on preparing Afghan forces to take on a larger role in the protection of their country from its enemies in the form of al-Qaida and remnants of the Taliban.

Bechtold, a green-belt martial arts instructor, has been training the ASF soldiers living and working with the Marines for about a month. The Marines hope to have their Afghan counterparts tan-belt qualified soon. The tan belt is the first level of the Marines’ mixed martial arts program.

“We’ve been working with the ASF soldiers to train them in military operations in urban terrain, patrolling and MCMAP,” said Bechtold. “We’re teaching them our leadership traits and core values, in addition to some of our basic fighting skills. It’s the same training Marines get.”

While the Marine martial arts instructor and platoon commander was putting his eager pupils through body-hardening drills and basic MCMAP movement skills, other Marines were sitting side-by-side with their Afghan counterparts in the camp fortified security observation posts.

“We try to always have an equal number of Marines and ASF soldiers on post and with us on patrol,” explained 1st Lt. Justin Bellman, Co. I executive officer.

Bellman says that with over 100 ASF soldiers currently stationed at their base camp to augment his Marines, conditions couldn’t be better for positioning the Afghan forces to take greater responsibility for providing security for Afghans.

“Several of these guys are former mujahedeen fighters. Many of them have lost family. They’ve had brothers killed or been injured themselves because of them having the courage to work with us in fighting the anti-Afghan forces,” said Bellman. “What we’ve learned from the ASF is that people really do want peace in this area, and they’re willing to let us help them achieve their goals.”



Marine Cpl. James Rogers, Co. I, 3rd Bn., 3rd Marines, squad leader and platoon commander of the Afghan Security Forces, evaluates one of his ASF soldier's technique during Marine Corps martial arts training at the camp.

The ASF squads are now divided into Marine-like ranks with Marine squad leaders overseeing their training. The leaders of Co. I are pleased with how their non-commissioned officers have stepped up to the challenge of integrating with the Afghans.

“We’ve been doing a left-seat, right-seat

See MCMAP, Page 15

PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Chief Warrant Officer Will O'Donnell (left), 159th Medical Company (Air Ambulance), and Chief Warrant Officer Craig Dehls, 68th Med. Co. (AA), monitor patient loading during a MEDEVAC mission to FOB Salerno. The 68th and 159th are part TF Dustoff which is responsible for battlefield evacuation, as well as moving medical assets throughout Afghanistan.

*Photo by 1st Lt. Joshua Ingram
68th Med. Co. (AA), TF Dustoff, JTF Wings*

If you have high quality photos of service members supporting the Coalition mission or enjoying well-deserved off-duty time, please e-mail them to stumpc@baf.afgn.army.mil. Please include full identification and caption information, including who is in the photo and what action is taking place.



Spotlight on Task Force Longhorn

Western unit focuses on reconstruction

Story by Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM, Afghanistan — Each region of Afghanistan has its own defining characteristics, which help shape the regional command operating in the area.

Positioned on the western border with Iran and based out of Herat city, Task Force Longhorn is a fairly new group that has been created and assembled by Combined Joint Task Force-76 to face the diverse challenges in the region.

Since TF Longhorn operates in a region with a more developed infrastructure than that's found in most areas of Afghanistan, the task force is using the circumstances to take civil affairs operations to the next level, according to Lt. Col. Jenny Caruso, TF Longhorn deputy commander.

"We are more heavily weighted in



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Soldiers from Troop A, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., remove a piece of artillery equipment from a HMMWV after returning to Shindand Airfield Nov. 29. The artillery piece was collected from an AMF compound near Shindand Airfield as part of the Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration program.

reconstruction and development because Herat offers a developed infrastructure we can tap into," she said.

Taking full advantage of the infrastructure, the task force has pushed civil affairs throughout the western region to provide focused assistance in key areas such as education and healthcare.

Numerous wells, schools and other projects have all been built in the short time TF Longhorn has existed.

Along with these projects, civil affairs has also tackled other challenges.

"In many areas we are trying to look at the larger systems," said Maj. David Johnson, Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team, Civil Military Operations Center officer in charge.

"In some areas, instead of building wells, we are working to support water distribution systems," he

said. "Instead of providing generators, we are working to support electrical grids."

One project the task force views as a capstone to their civil affairs efforts is a burn treatment center being added to Herat Regional Hospital.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Spc. Jose Sandoval, Co. C, 113th Support Bn., 76th Sep. Inf. Bde., holds a 9 month old boy in the back of an ambulance outside Herat Regional Hospital Nov. 14. The baby was awaiting transport to Bagram Airfield after being involved in a car accident that killed four people and injured 12 others earlier that day.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Sgt. John Fox, TF Longhorn motor sergeant, talks to Spc. Kent Nelson, TF-168, during a trailer driving course at the Herat PRT.

The burn center is a good representation of Longhorn's reconstruction efforts, because it incorporates so many different elements, said Johnson. While the Coalition will provide the physical building, it is working in partnership with international nongovernmental organizations for other elements that include equipment, training and operating costs, as well as the staff's salary, for five years.

Incorporating Task Force Saber, which is comprised of 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, along with multiple kandaks (battalions) from the Afghan National Army, into TF Longhorn, keeps the task force in a proactive posture to maintain the security necessary to continue the advanced reconstruction.

Spc. Justin Kiyohiro, Troop A, 3rd Sqd., 4th Cav. Rgt., mortar man, conducts constant security patrols in western Herat province.

Covering large areas, many cavalry members spend much time outside the wire, said Kiyohiro.

"It is very high-tempo here," he said. "We are always moving and patrolling."



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Sgt. 1st Class Delano Kroeplin, Jr. holds a beam level while Sgt. James Kroeplin Sr., both of 367th Eng. Bn., hammers the frame of a generator shelter together. The frames were added to all generators at Shindand Airfield to protect them from the harsh winter weather.



Spc. Cheryl Ransford

Capt. Craig Colucci, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., hands out T-shirts to a family in Borjak Nov. 20. The convoy stopped on its way back to base from another distribution site and handed out supplies to people in small villages along the way.

With all the elements of TF Longhorn decisively engaged in the west, many service members are enjoying the experience.

"It is great to work here," said Staff Sgt. Benjamin Rogers, TF Longhorn operations.

Rogers said one of the most rewarding aspects of working with TF Longhorn

was watching as it was built from the ground up.

"I learned a lot about what goes into making a working organization," he said.

With a high operational tempo, expanded civil affairs and security efforts, TF Longhorn will remain a vital presence in the west supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.



Courtesy photo

Sgt. Robert Pulliam, Troop D, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., refuels a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter at the Afghan National Army Regional Corps Assistance Group base outside Herat city.

Soldiers aid orphaned Afghan youth

Coalition personnel provide assistance to children in Kabul

Story and photos by
SpC. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — While caring for children can be rewarding, it is something service members don't always have a chance to do while on deployment.

In Afghanistan, some service members have been spending some free time making a difference in the lives of hundreds of orphaned children who don't live with their families.

While there are many orphanages throughout Afghanistan, most of them are short on funds and unable to afford the necessary materials to care for children.

One such orphanage is the Allaudin Orphanage in the capital city of Kabul. It is home to more than 650 children, ranging in age from 4 to 16.

For 23 years, the orphanage has been providing care for

children who have lost their parents, said Gullalay, orphanage director.

"Through the 25 years of war, many people have been killed, and now the children don't have anywhere to live," she said. "I have never turned away a child, and don't think I ever would.

Even if the place is full, I will always make room for a child who has nowhere to live."

With a full house and limited resources, materials needed to care for the children can be scarce, but Soldiers of Combined Forces Command — Afghanistan in Kabul are helping the orphanage keep its doors open and a roof over the heads of the children.

During the last five months, Soldiers from CFC-A have been visiting the orphanage

to provide the assistance that helps the orphanage work past the difficulties of caring for so many children.

"Being around the children is very emotional," said SpC. Amy Popke, Task Force Victory surgeon cell. "The children are so young. It almost brings a tear to your eye to see them."

Soldiers from various units visit the orphanage almost weekly to provide clothing, toys, blankets, school supplies, comfort items and sports equipment.

"One of the primary ways we help is by interacting with the children," said Command Sgt. Maj. Nancy Rivera, CFC-A, civil military operations noncommissioned officer in charge. "Many of the items we provide, the orphanage can't afford and, therefore, wouldn't have."

Now that the orphanage has been receiving material goods for several months, the Soldiers are now thinking of other ways they can add to the quality of life for the children.

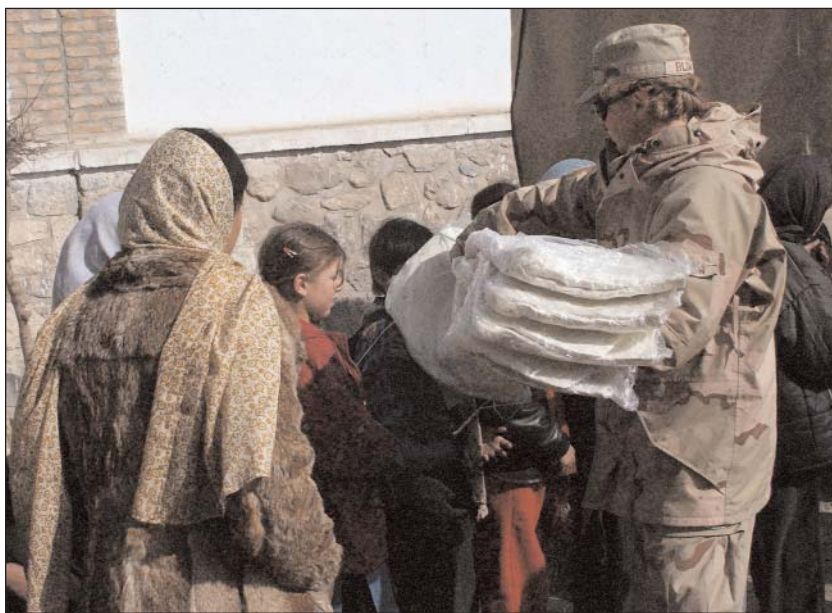
"The director feels that the kids have enough material items at this point, but they

need life skills," said Rivera. "We're going to begin teaching classes that will include English, art, sports and personal hygiene."

By interacting with the Soldiers so often, the children are more willing to interact with people outside the orphanage, she said. Their English skills are improving, and the visits bring smiles to their faces.

Growing up in an orphanage can affect a child in many ways. But with the right amount of care, the children are able to grow up and be successful like Mohammed Ishmael, a teacher at the Allaudin Orphanage. Before becoming a teacher, Ishmael called Allaudin home for many years.

"The teachers take very good care of the children," said Ishmael. "After I graduated and left the school, I didn't know what I wanted to do, so I decided to come back to the orphanage and teach the children who are growing up just like me. It is my way of paying the teachers back for all they did for me as I was growing up."



Maj. Jamie Blow, TF Victory preventive medicine officer, gives winter jackets to the children at the Allaudin Orphanage in Kabul Jan. 5.



Command Sgt. Maj. Ramon Owens (left) and SpC. Amy Popke, both of TF Victory, organize bags of goodies for the children at the Allaudin Orphanage Jan. 5.



Photos by Sgt. Michael Abney

An ANA instructor ensures a trainee at the Kabul Military Training Center uses proper marksmanship techniques during weapons training at KMTC.

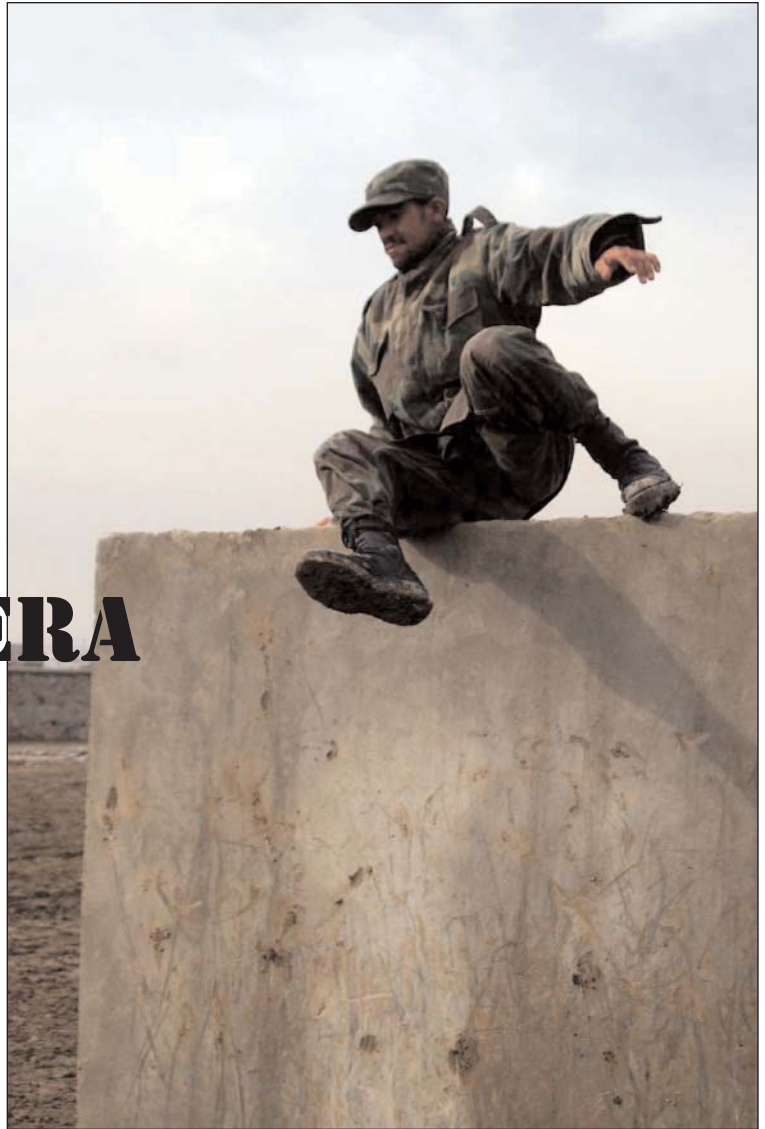
COMBAT CAMERA

*Recruits earn green beret,
join ANA's professional ranks*



Above: An ANA trainee is given instruction on the PKM machine gun by an ANA sergeant during a basic training live-fire exercise at KMTC Jan. 4.

Below: Recruits place their right hands on the Quran as they are sworn in to the ANA.



An ANA soldier negotiates an obstacle during basic training at KMTC Jan. 4. After graduation, the Afghan soldiers earn their army's green beret.



Soldiers from the Afghan National Army pass in review during their graduation ceremony at KMTC Jan. 9.

ARA helps active duty Soldiers go Reserve

Story by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Some active duty service members may leave the military shortly after they redeploy from Afghanistan.

However, some may not want to sever their ties with the military completely, and will instead choose to join the Reserve component.

When service members transition from active duty, they are required to meet with a Reserve component retention officer, said Master Sgt. Scott A. Spencer, Reserve Component Retention senior operations sergeant.

"Meeting with our retention officers is part of the pre-separation brief," he said.

After attending the pre-separation brief, Soldiers receive an appointment letter and the opportunity to meet one-on-one with a retention officer.

For deployed Soldiers who know this is an option they want to explore, the Army Reserve Affairs office at Bagram Airfield is here to help.

"We are able to help Soldiers prepare their packets and get the ball rolling," said Master Sgt. Gregory Jacobs, ARA senior retention noncommissioned officer.

Although the packet can be prepared early, Soldiers may not actually submit their

packets until 90 days before separation from the Army.

In preparing packets, there are a few decisions a Soldier must make.

First, they must decide whether they want to join the National Guard or Reserves, or the Active Guard Reserve.

The majority of National Guard positions

operate without the AGR.

"You can't run a part-time force with just part-time operations," said Jacobs.

The AGR provides an opportunity for Soldiers to work full-time supporting either a National Guard or Reserve unit. Soldiers in these positions often change duty stations every three to five years, but can often transfer to other units in the same area.

One question many Soldiers ask, regardless of the branch they are interested in, is whether they will lose rank when they join the Reserve component, said Jacobs.

"Normally, we are able to find positions that don't require a loss of rank," he said. "We also have a very high success rate in helping Soldiers change job specialties when they join the National Guard or Reserves."

Soldiers can check on either of these options by knowing the area they plan on moving to. Once this is determined, ARA personnel can help Soldiers identify what positions are open to them.

"The important thing is knowing what positions are available and meeting the requirements for those positions," said Spencer.

Regardless of the position Soldiers choose, it is important to the Army, he said.

"The Army couldn't successfully accomplish its mission without the Reserve component," he said.

ARA Contact Information

Army Reserve Affairs Office – DSN 318-231-4353

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve – www.esgr.com

USERRA – www.osc.gov/usera.htm

Veterans Employment and Training Service – www.dol.gov/vets

The Army Reserve Affairs office is located in Motel 6, Room 207 on Bagram Air Base. ARA personnel are able to assist service members from all branches of service. They can also assist active duty service members who are interested in joining the Reserves upon exiting the active component.

are combat arms, while the Reserves are typically combat service support, said Jacobs. Together, they make up an important part of the Army's total force.

While the military can't operate successfully without the Reserve component, the Reserve component couldn't

Email Alert !!!

File Edit View Insert Format Tools Table Window Help


Type a question for help

Send To... All Afghanistan Microsoft exchange users

Cc...


Subject: EMAIL ALERT!!!

Times New Roman 12



Fraudulent emails designed to look like they are from the following companies are being sent over government email servers.

eBay
Wells Fargo
US Bank
Citibank
AOL



Each of the emails contains links to fraudulent Internet sites in an effort to obtain personal and financial information. Service members should automatically delete these emails and not respond.

Remember, legitimate financial institutions and businesses will never request information in this way. Users should only open attachments and Internet links from known sources.

Awareness protects against sexual assault

Safeguarding the Coalition

Story by Spc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

AFGHANISTAN — The dangers presented to personnel in a deployed environment extend past the threats of armed combatants on the battlefield.

Just as serious as the risks associated with combat, are the threats presented by dangers that exist in the form of sexual assault.

Sexual assault is defined as any physical contact of a sexual nature without consent.

Although that seems like a simple definition, there are actually three types of sexual assault, said Sgt. 1st Class Tina Irvin, Joint Logistics Command Equal Opportunity adviser.

The three types of assault are indecent assault (nonconsensual pinching, grabbing or touching to satisfy a sexual desire), forcible sodomy (forced oral/anal sex) and carnal knowledge (consensual sexual intercourse with a child under 16).

“Remaining aware of sexual assault is one of the most important things all of us can do,” said Irvin. “If we ignore the issue and act as if it doesn’t happen, we are allowing it to continue.”

Prevention relies heavily upon personnel, both male and female, remaining aware of their surroundings at all times.

“Being aware of your surroundings is more than just looking around to see who is in the immediate area,” said Irvin. “It means looking for people who look out of place or are acting strangely – and following your intuition. If you feel uncomfortable with something or someone, remove yourself from the situation.”

As long as there are predators, the risk of sexual assault is always present. But in a deployed environment, there are additional risks that many people don’t think about.

“While we can’t change our work schedules, changing what we do during our off time and how we get from one

place to another are ways service members can keep from being targeted by potential assailants,” she said.

When changing routes and routines, service members should ensure the new routes don’t lead them through other areas that are potentially hazardous.

“Many times people will cut through a parking area or areas with bunkers,” said Task Force Eagle Operations Command Sgt. Maj. Mark Bowman. “While they are effectively changing their normal routes, they are also possibly making themselves further targeted by being in these areas.”

Since many military bases in

Traveling with a buddy and staying in areas that have good lighting can reduce the chances of service members becoming targets, but it may not always be enough to completely ward off potential assailants.

“The things that are happening here can happen anywhere,” said Air Force Capt. Carol Watters, 325th Combat Support Hospital, combat support center clinical social worker. “Personnel should use the same common sense they would use at home.”

As many personnel prepare to redeploy, complacency tends to set in, she said.

“Sometimes people get complacent about their surroundings when they are surrounded by armed military and the level of security we have here,” said Watters.

“The same people who were diligent in everything they do, start getting lackadaisical about their surroundings and what they are doing when they get ready to redeploy. This in itself can make a person more likely to be targeted.”

There are many myths about sexual assaults, but they are just that – myths, said Irvin. One such myth is that only women are assaulted.

“While women are more vulnerable, men suffer 10 percent of all sexual assaults,” she said.

“Another myth is that sexual assaults are done by a stranger. In fact, 80 percent of all reported assaults are committed by a friend, acquaintance or family member.”

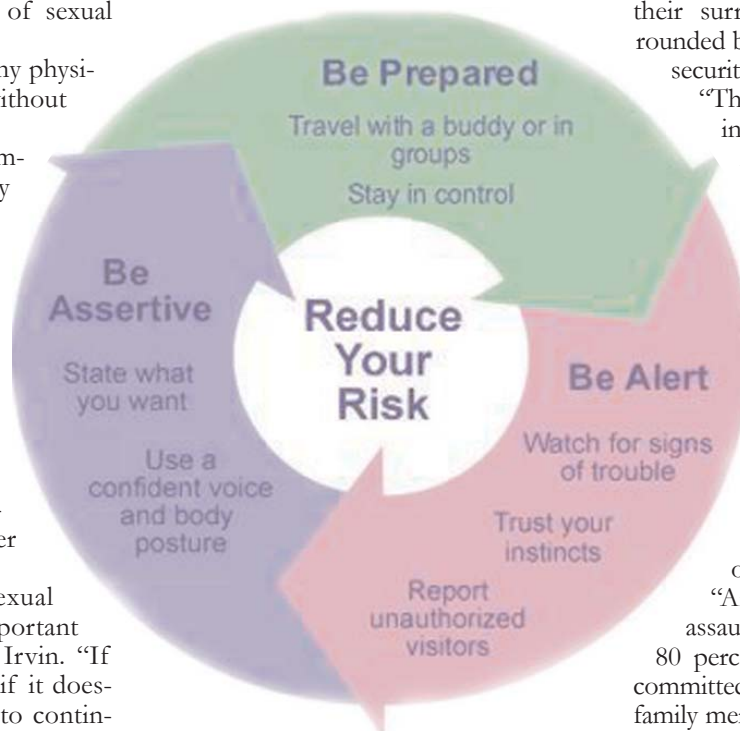
One of the biggest problems, in relation to sexual assaults, is that most aren’t reported.

Of all sexual assaults committed, 80 percent go unreported due to embarrassment, fear of reprisal, depression, guilt or belief that nothing will be done.

When a sexual assault is reported, it will be dealt with by the authorities, just as any other criminal offense would be.

Although there are some additional risks in a deployed environment, awareness is one of the best ways to protect against potential assailants.

“While only a small portion of sexual assaults are reported, it isn’t something that is happening to everyone else,” said Irvin. “It’s happening here and it needs to be addressed to keep our brothers and sisters in the military safe.”



Afghanistan have strict guidelines on light discipline after dark, service members often find themselves in areas that aren’t well lit.

“Because we walk and spend a lot of time in poorly lit areas, traveling with a buddy is recommended,” said Irvin. “Carrying a flashlight is also a good idea in poorly lit areas.”

“At home, we are able to lock our front doors and know that our homes are secure when we go to sleep at night,” said Irvin. “Here, however, we have other people living with us, and we don’t have the convenience of that added security. Also the showers and bathroom are usually a little ways from sleeping quarters, so service members have to walk in the dark to get to them.”

PTAT: Soldiers patrol along side Afghan police officers

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Lately, the PTAT has focused their classroom training on conducting operations in urban areas.

"They are very good students," said Roque. "They are very responsive to what they are taught. From planning to execution, they have made great strides."

For the PTAT, being on the streets with the police officers has yielded some benefits.

Along with seeing the results of their training first-hand, the team takes lessons they learned in action and applies them to future training.

Just as training in the classroom benefits the police when they're on patrols, the PTAT's willingness to take the training to the streets is appreciated by the Afghan police officers in turn.

"They appreciate us being there, because it shows them we care what they do," said Greer. "They respect us and we respect them. It builds a trust factor and rapport for the future."

One other benefit the team has encountered is an extreme amount of job satisfaction.

"I want the Herat police department to



Sgt. Frank Magni

Spcs. Christopher Greer (left) and Jorge Lopez, Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team Police Tactical Advisory Team, demonstrate through an interpreter proper search procedures to a class of ANP students in Herat city.

be the envy of other provinces," said Roque. "It makes me extremely proud to

know in some way we can contribute to that."

Dari/Pashto phrase of the week



Dari

You are a good friend.

*Shuma yak doste khoob hasted
(Shoo-ma yak doe-stay khoob
haus-ted)*

Pashto

You are a good friend.

*Tasoo yow khu malgeray yaste
(Tah-soo yow khoob mal-gah-ray
yaws-tay)*

Afghan cultural tidbit

The two main languages spoken in Afghanistan are Dari and Pashto. Dari, derived from "darbari," meaning the language of the court of kings, is spoken in the central, northern and western provinces of Afghanistan. Pashto is spoken in the southern and south eastern provinces of Afghanistan. Thirty-five percent of Afghans speak Pashto, 50 percent speak Dari, and the rest speak primarily Turkic, Balochi or Pashai.

Essay: Respect — ‘Self respect is the cornerstone of all virtue’

This essay is the winner of the CJTF-76 values essay contest for “Respect.”

Sir John Herschel, son of the astronomer who discovered Uranus, said, “Self-respect is the cornerstone of all virtue.”

The term “respect” is often used so loosely that it has lost much of its meaning. However, respect is a value that is more powerful than any other value.

Respect is an Army value that has lost more significant meaning than anyone will ever know.

Individuals live by the cliché, “You have to give respect before you get respect.” Most people fail to realize that respect for oneself is very important. If no one else will

respect you, you have the ability to know that you respect yourself by doing what is right.

Service men and women throughout the military have been trained to respect the rank that is on one’s collar.

Service members are taught this lesson for two reasons.

The first reason is to honor and respect those in the past who established and created the rank structure we know today.

The second reason is a more modern and easily understood claim, that those who hold higher rank wear that rank due to hard work, dedication and sacrifice.

Those individuals had the self-respect to do what had to

be done to achieve the next level. They began respecting themselves before requesting the respect of others.

Respect is not only extended to those in the military. Civilians, although not worn, have a rank structure that is exercised through subordinates and seniors. Like the military, subordinates respect those who hold positions above their own.

Those men and women who are deployed today all over the world, defending our country and way of life, who watch those fall in combat, understand respect and honor more than anyone will ever know.

People can respect those who have achieved great things in life, but there is more

respect given to those who put others and the needs of others before their own.

They are fallen Soldiers who have impacted millions of lives, instead of just their own, to make a difference in the world. Respect for the fallen is carried on by continuing and accomplishing the mission.

Those who seek respect should build a foundation of respect for themselves. Those who know no respect for themselves cannot know respect for others. If you can’t respect others, others will not show respect in return.

Self-respect is indeed the cornerstone of all virtues.

Sgt. Christopher Seamans
125th Finance Battalion

MCMAP: Afghan security learns Marine Corps defense skills

continued from Page 7

with them since we got here,” explained Bechtold. “My job has been easy. It’s the NCOs who have really run with it. They’re ‘alone and unafraid’ here. The corporals and sergeants have taken ownership of their squads a lot more than if we were doing standard platoon operations.”

The Marines say their time with the ASF

has also been eye-opening on many levels. On convoys and on patrol, the Afghan forces have proven adept and skillful.

Many times, the Marines have been surprised by how perceptive the Afghan Security Forces are to subtle changes in their surroundings, changes which could have been hostile threats.

“One second, they’ll be smoking and laughing, and the next they’ll be aimed in, deadly serious,” said Lance Cpl. Tim

Davis, Co. I rifleman. “They’ve got this sixth sense about them. I’ve looked where they’re aiming in, and even with my optics I can’t see what they just know is out there.”

The ASF aren’t just keen, battle-tested fighters, though.

“They’re the most courteous people I’ve ever met,” said Davis. “We’ve seen nothing but the good side of the Afghan people by working with them.”

Letters to the Editor

The *Freedom Watch* would like to publish your opinions on topics of importance and interest to those serving in OEF.

Please send your thoughts in letter form to the editor. All letters e-mailed must include full name, unit, address and, when possible, telephone number. We will not print anonymous letters. Please limit all letters to 200 words or less.

We reserve the right to edit letters for length, clarity and decorum.

Please avoid implying criticism of U.S. or DoD policies and programs, advocating or disputing specific political, diplomatic or legislative matters, or implying criticism of host nation or host nation sensitivities.

Please send your letters to: stumpc@baf.afgn.army.mil

We look forward to hearing from you!

OEF “Values” Essay Contest

Personnel in Afghanistan are invited to participate in the Operation Enduring Freedom bi-monthly “Values” Essay Contest sponsored by CJTF-76.

The current value is “**Personal Courage**.”

Rules

- ☐ Essays should include the definition of the featured value and your own experience(s) that reinforce this value
- ☐ Essays will be at least one and no more than two pages (typed/neatly printed and double-spaced)
- ☐ Please include a cover page with Title, Author’s Name, Supervisor’s Name, Unit/Organization, Phone Number and e-mail address if available
- ☐ Do not put name directly on essay
- ☐ Submit essays to EO Adviser nearest your location, via e-mail or hard copy by **Feb. 10**.

The winning essay writer will receive a CJTF-76 Commanding General’s Certificate of Achievement and other prizes to be announced. The essay will also be published in a future issue of the *Freedom Watch*, and in the bi-monthly EO Update.

EO is also looking for E-7s and above to help review essay submissions and select the winning essay.

Call the Bagram EO Senior Adviser at DSN 318-231-3021 for more information.

Freedom Watch

January 30, 2005

